



California Victim Compensation Program

*Information
for
First-Responders*

Crime Hurts Everybody

We Can Help.

www.VictimCompensation.ca.gov

California's Victim Compensation Program has paid more than \$1.7 billion to victims since 1965.
Medical, mental health treatment, relocation and funeral costs are just some of the expenses
covered by the program.

**Injured in a crime?
Call 1-800-777-9229**



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2009

California Victim Compensation Program (VCP)

- Created in 1965 to lessen the financial impact of crime on qualifying victims
- Paid nearly \$1.8 billion to victims
- Last fiscal year, applications received up 4% and payments up 10% to more than \$81 million
- By law, VCP is the payer of last resort for eligible out-of-pocket losses resulting from the crime



The VCP Can Reimburse for ...

- Medical and dental treatment
- Mental health services
- Income loss
- Funeral and burial expenses
- Loss of support, for dependents when a victim is killed or disabled because of a crime
- Job retraining
- Home or vehicle modifications
- Home security
- Relocation
- Insurance co-payments
- Crime scene cleanup
- Medically necessary equipment such as a wheelchair
- Childcare services, when a caregiver is killed or disabled because of a crime



Criminal Offenders Pay for Compensation

- Fines and fees, including traffic fines
- Restitution fines and orders
- Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grants
- Portion of state penalty assessments

Not funded by taxpayer dollars

Qualifying Crimes

- Typically require a death, physical injury or a threat of physical injury (emotional injury)
- For certain crimes emotional injury alone is all that needs to be shown
- Covers victims of crimes that occur in California or Californians injured in crimes outside the state

Examples of Qualifying Crimes

- Murder
- Robbery
- Battery
- Assault with Deadly Weapon
- Sexual Assault
- Terrorist Threats
- Human Trafficking
- Child Abuse / Molest
- Domestic Violence
- Vehicular offenses
 - DUI
 - Hit and Run
 - Vehicular Manslaughter
 - Assault with vehicle
- Elder Abuse*
- Hate Crimes*

**Particular crime(s) must fit basic criteria of physical injury or threat of physical injury*



To Be Eligible, Victims Must ...

- Generally, have reported the crime(s) to a law-enforcement agency*
- Generally, apply within a year of crime, or, if victim is under 18, prior to 19th birthday (New in 2009, filing period extended to age 28 for specified sexual offenses committed against minors, matching the statute of limitations for prosecution)
- Cooperate with law enforcement and VCP
- Not have participated in or been involved in committing the crime
- Not be in prison, on parole or on felony probation*

*See following slide

Eligibility Continued...

*Crime reports

- In certain cases, most commonly child abuse and domestic violence, other sources of crime verification may be used instead of a crime report. Those sources may include:
 - child protective services reports
 - court records
 - medical or mental-health treatment records
- However, law enforcement crime reports are the primary verification method

*Felon status

- Individuals who are on felony status may apply to the program
- This can allow benefits for innocent family members

Victims and Family Members Qualify

- Certain family members or other loved ones who suffer an economic loss resulting from an injury to or death of a crime victim may also be eligible for compensation. Such indirect victims include:
 - Spouse
 - Sibling
 - Parent
 - Child
 - Grandparent
 - Grandchild
 - Registered Domestic Partner
 - Person who was living in the same household as the victim at the time of the crime
 - Person who has become the primary caretaker of a victim after the crime

Child Witnesses

- New in 2009, minors who suffer emotional injuries from witnessing a violent crime may be eligible for mental health counseling through the VCP
- The change is the result of legislation, Assembly Bill 2809 (Leno)
- Previously, minors had to either be the direct victim of a violent crime or so-called derivative victims, dependent in some way on a direct victim of violent crime
- Under the new law, the minor witness can be eligible for assistance even if he or she is unrelated to the crime victims
- The minor witness must have been in close proximity to the crime
- Mental health counseling only up to \$5,000

Emergency Awards

- Claimant must suffer substantial hardship without the award
- Emergency payment would help with an immediate need
- Documentation needed
- Processed within 30 days
- Local county Victim Witness Assistance Program can help applicants with process

How Do Victims Connect With Victim Compensation?

- Most victims access the program with the assistance of Victim Witness Assistance Advocates in local counties
- County district attorney offices operate many Victim Witness Programs
- The VCP works with staff in 21 local county Joint Powers Verification Units statewide to process claims

Victims Can Contact the Program Directly

1-800-777-9229

- Customer service representatives can answer questions and help victims apply for compensation

www.victimcompensation.ca.gov

- A variety of online resources and information is available at the VCP website

Police Reports Essential

- The VCP appreciates the assistance of law enforcement in responding to requests for copies of police reports
- Information verifies crime and aids eligibility and benefit decisions allowing victim to receive compensation
- Law requires exchange of information within 10 business days of request*
- Communication may include follow-up phone calls and the exchange of supplemental reports
- Records handled securely and not released to victims or other unauthorized parties.

*Government Code section 13954

Relocation Assistance

- VCP can provide up to \$2,000 per household
- Must be determined by law enforcement to be necessary for victim's safety, or by mental health provider as necessary for emotional well-being
- Providing determination of necessity to program allows victim to receive assistance and seek safety
- Victims of sexual assault or domestic violence, when offender is known, must agree not to inform offender of location of new residence, or must seek a restraining order
- Local Victim-Witness Assistance staff can assist victims with application process

Our Duty to Inform Victims

- California law requires the VCP to work with law enforcement and other first-responders to help inform victims about available assistance*
- The Government Code also states it is the duty of law enforcement to inform crime victims about the VCP and local victim-assistance resources
- Some departments use a checkbox on crime reports to indicate victim was informed

*Government Code sections 13962. (a), (b)

Good Samaritan Program

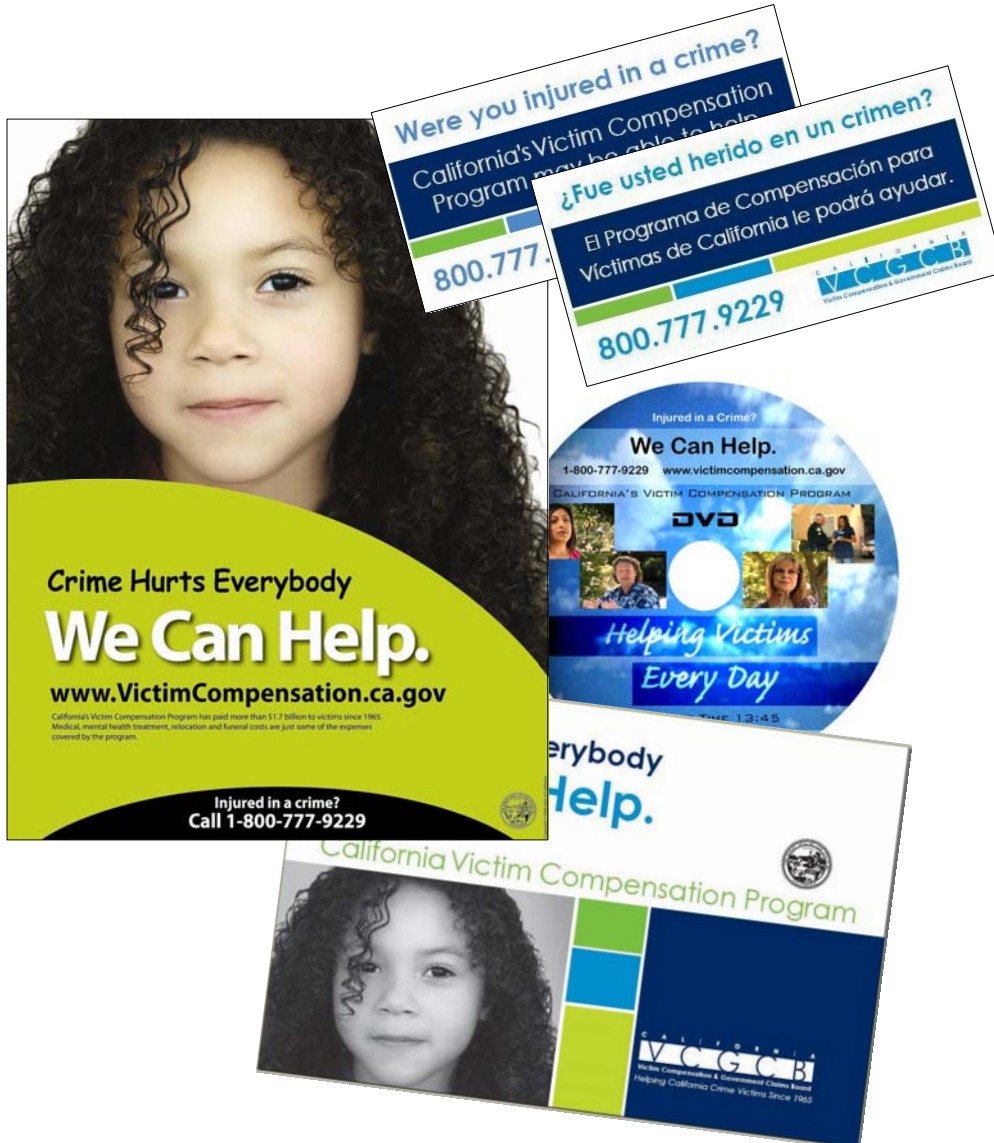
- The Good Samaritan Program may help pay for property damage, lost income, medical/dental and funeral/burial expenses to any private citizen who comes to the aid of a crime victim or assists another person in immediate danger of death or injury
- \$10,000 benefit limit

Missing Children Rewards

- Missing Children Reward Program assists local law enforcement agencies and other parties in identification and recovery of missing children in California
- Enhances non-state reward funds
- Rewards individuals with up to \$500 for information leading to the location and recovery of a missing child listed in the California Department of Justice Missing Person Registry

Informational Tools

- The VCP has a variety of print and multimedia materials that can help you reach victims of violent crime



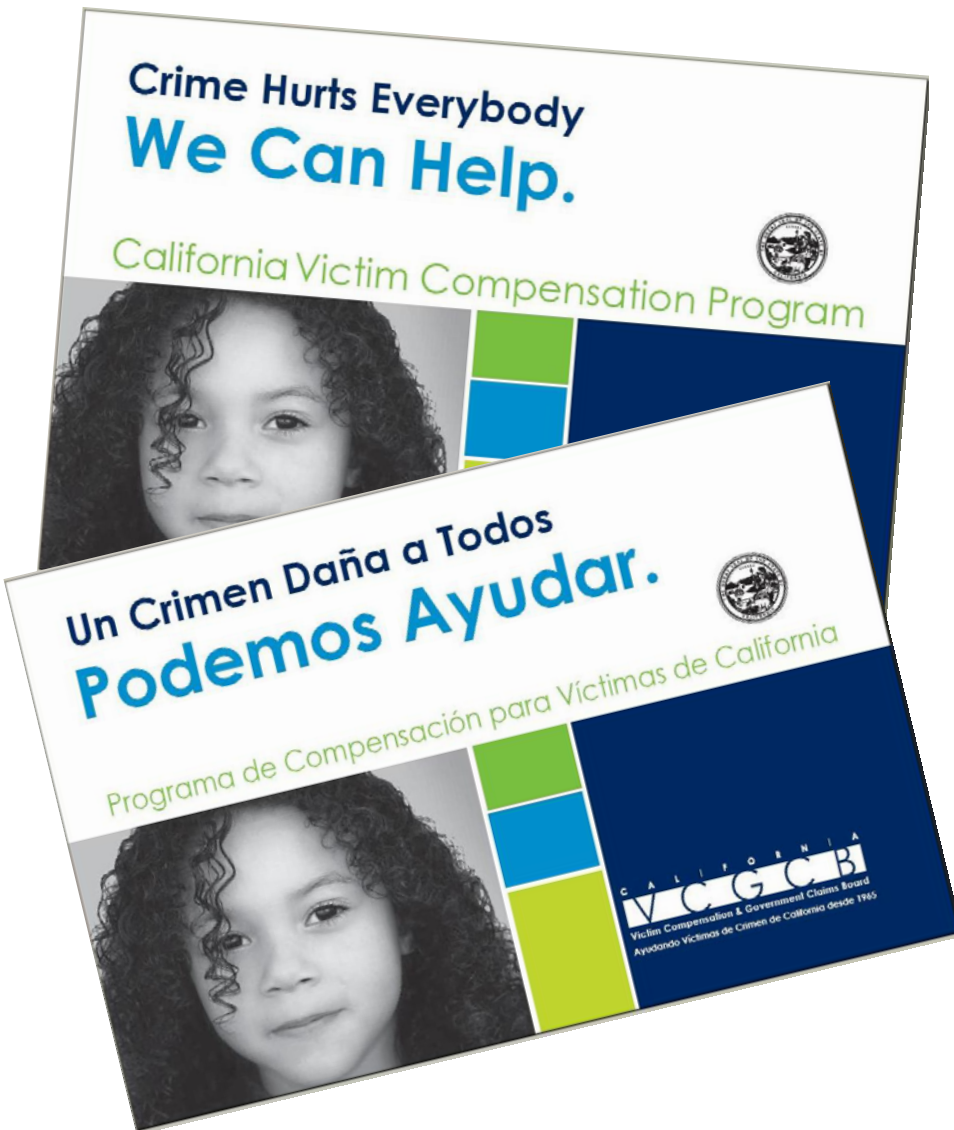
First-Responder Cards

- The business-card-size VCP information card can help first-responders such as law enforcement officers, paramedics, advocates and others easily provide basic information on the VCP to victims in the field



Brochures

- User-friendly information about the VCP for crime victims and their loved ones



Posters

- Ideal for display in victim-witness centers, law enforcement offices, hospital emergency rooms, crisis centers and other locations serving crime victims



- “Helping Victims Every Day” features real victims and survivors of crimes, who recount their experiences and later tell of the assistance they received

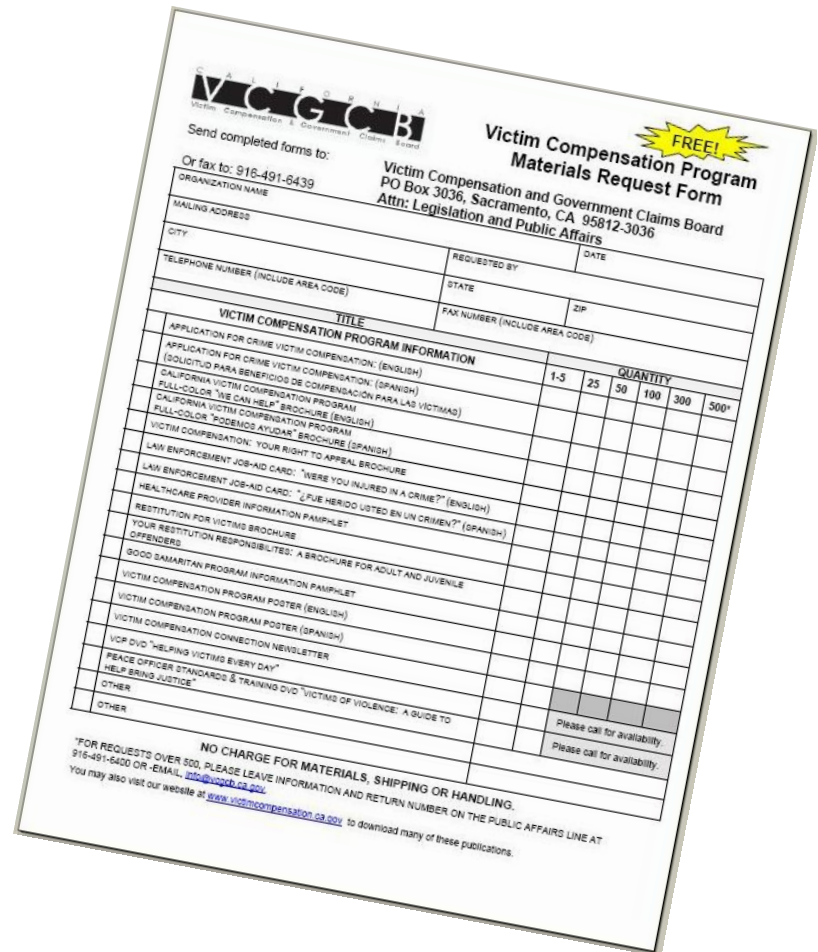
DVDs



How to Order Free Materials

- Print, fill out and fax the Materials Request Form located in the “Publications Section” of the VCP website:

www.victimcompensation.ca.gov



The image shows a "Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board Materials Request Form". The form is titled "Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board Materials Request Form" and includes a "FREE!" sticker. It contains fields for "Send completed forms to:", "Or fax to: 916-491-6439", "Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board", "PO Box 3036, Sacramento, CA 95812-3036", and "Attn: Legislation and Public Affairs". The form also includes fields for "MAILING ADDRESS", "CITY", "STATE", "ZIP", "TELEPHONE NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE)", "REQUESTED BY", "DATE", and "FAX NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE)". A table titled "VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM INFORMATION" lists various materials and their quantities. The table has columns for "TITLE", "1-5", "25", "50", "100", "300", and "500". The materials listed include: "APPLICATION FOR CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION: (ENGLISH)", "APPLICATION FOR CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION: (SPANISH)", "CALIFORNIA VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM FULL-COLOR 'USE CAN HELP' BROCHURE (ENGLISH)", "CALIFORNIA VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM FULL-COLOR 'PODEMOS AYUDAR' BROCHURE (SPANISH)", "VICTIM COMPENSATION: YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL BROCHURE", "LAW ENFORCEMENT JOB-AID CARD: 'WHERE YOU INJURED IN A CRIME?' (ENGLISH)", "HEALTHCARE PROVIDER INFORMATION PAMPHLET", "RESTITUTION FOR VICTIMS BROCHURE", "YOUR RESTITUTION RESPONSIBILITIES: A BROCHURE FOR ADULT AND JUVENILE", "GOOD SAMARITAN PROGRAM INFORMATION PAMPHLET", "VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM POSTER (ENGLISH)", "VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM POSTER (SPANISH)", "VCP DVD 'HELPING VICTIMS EVERY DAY'", "PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING DVD 'VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE: A GUIDE TO HELP BRING JUSTICE'", and "OTHER". The form also includes a section for "NO CHARGE FOR MATERIALS, SHIPPING OR HANDLING" and a note about requests over \$500.

TITLE	1-5	25	50	100	300	500*
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PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING DVD 'VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE: A GUIDE TO HELP BRING JUSTICE'						
OTHER						

*FOR REQUESTS OVER \$500, PLEASE LEAVE INFORMATION AND RETURN NUMBER ON THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS LINE AT 916-491-6400 OR E-MAIL: info@vcp.ca.gov. You may also visit our website at www.victimcompensation.ca.gov to download many of these publications.



Contact the VCP

- **1-800-777-9229**
- **www.victimcompensation.ca.gov**
- **info@vcgcb.ca.gov**
- Contact Public Affairs regarding presentations or publications at:
(916) 491-6400
- Contact your local Victim Witness Assistance Program